THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A proposal for extension of jurisdiction of MTNL Chennai was received in August, 1998 from the then Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, and he was informed that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was being corporatised which would include Chennai Telephones.

(b) to (d) After creation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with effect from 1st October, 2000, Chennai Telephones came under the management of BSNL which has similar financial autonomy like MTNL and the telephone system in Chennai has shown consistent good performance in respect of provisioning of new telephones, fault rates, technology employed as well as customer satisfaction.

Telephone connections in Orissa

3032. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in installing telephone connections in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether in a case, registered with telephone authorities in the year 1992, a connection is yet to be given and on this case the High Court of Orissa has directed Government to pay compensation to the applicant for this inordinate delay; and

(c) if so, what is plaguing the system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, there was a case of Shri Sadhu Gadadhar Dash, Omkar Mission of Ambadall village, Mayurbhanj district, for which there had been delay in providing telephone connection due to technically non-feasible area. Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

Name of Customer	Shri Sadhu Gadadhar Dash
Date of Registration	5.3.1992
Reason of delay in providing telephone connection	Area was technically non-feasible.
Date of connection	Connection was provided on 8.9.2001 after opening of a new telephone exchange at Pratap Pur.
Compensation	No compensation has been paid.

Cheap mobile phones to consumers

†3033. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited propose to provide very cheap WLL mobile phones to consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL is providing following options to its customers in respect of WLL (Mobile) handsets :—

(i) Customer may bring his own handset.

(ii) Purchase of handset from BSNL upon payment of its cost in 25 monthly instalments of Rs. 200 each.

(iii) Provision of handset by BSNL upon payment of Rs. 20/- p.m. towards insurance, etc.

(iv) Provision of handset by BSNL upon payment of security deposit (refundable) of Rs. 5000/-.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.